

**Top Secret****BOLIVIA: Coup Plotting**

Rumors of a coup by the end of the month or possibly as early as today in response to domestic unrest are circulating [REDACTED] in Bolivia. Two different leaders have been mentioned: Colonel Vargas Salinas, commander of the 7th Division in Cochabamba southeast of La Paz, and General Garcia Meza, director of the military academy in La Paz. Both were strong supporters of previous coup leader Colonel Natusch. Garcia Meza seems the stronger and appears to have the support of the Army commander and most key regimental officers. [REDACTED]

Interim President Gueiler is aware of the rumors and is seeking support from other senior military leaders. Any coup attempt would almost certainly prompt a violent popular reaction. [REDACTED]

11 Approved for Release **Top Secret**

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